

DIFFICULTY IN TRANSLATING

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こんにちは

When watching Anime or movies with English subtitle, I sometimes feel that translations are unnatural. But I do not think it is translator's fault, rather there must be other factors. I researched by watching Anime or videos as much as possible to detect the uniqueness of Japanese language.

Three contributing factors

- **Impossibility to correspond**
- **High context culture**
- **Grammatical differences**

1 Impossibility to correspond

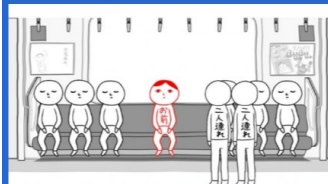
Cultural background
Japanese is historically isolated language because there is no evidence describing Japanese prehistory including the origin of Japanese language

Unique expression
Example
お疲れ様(Otsukaresama)

1



<https://youtu.be/pWe7EzTRk4>
Hollywood Celebrities Speaking Japanese



2 High-context culture

In high-context culture, messages are sometimes implied, or confined to pronoun, and there are fixed opinions or thoughts shared among people

Example
空気を読む(Kuki wo yomu) (read the situation)

G-MODE
空気読み。
(2008, Nintendo)



3 Grammatical Differences

Grammatical differences are factor making translating difficult.

Japanese has no plural, article and future tense. So, you have to guess them in the context

In Japanese, personal pronouns play a vital role in translating. Depending on gender or situation, pronouns vary
Watashi, Boku, Ore, Jibun, (Your Name)
These are pronouns referring "I"



Thank you for listening :)